

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated, substantially pure cathepsin L type cysteine protease present in healthy stratum corneum having an apparent molecular weight ranging from ~~15 to 32~~ 25-30 kilodaltons; ~~or polypeptide fragment thereof having cathepsin L type cysteine protease activity;~~
formulated into physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

14. (currently amended) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, comprising from about 0.00001% to 50% by weight of said cathepsin L type cysteine protease ~~or polypeptide fragment thereof.~~

15. (currently amended) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 14, comprising from about 0.001% to 10% by weight of said cathepsin L type cysteine protease ~~or polypeptide fragment thereof.~~

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim ~~16~~ 13, further comprising at least one protease activity enhancer, said at least one protease activity enhancer comprising glycerol, urea or derivative thereof, transglutaminase, EDTA, reducing agent, or combination thereof.

18. (currently amended) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim ~~16~~ 17, comprising from about 0.00001% to 15% by weight of said at least one protease activity enhancer.

19. (previously presented) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 18, comprising from about 0.0001% to 10% by weight of said at least one protease activity enhancer.

20-27. (canceled)

28. (original) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, further comprising at least one active agent selected from among antibacterial, antiparasitic, antifungal, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, antipruritic, anaesthetic, keratolytic, anti-free-radical, antiseborrhoeic, antidandruff, and anti-acne agents, and/or agents reducing skin differentiation and/or proliferation and/or pigmentation.

29. (original) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, formulated as a solution, dispersion, emulsion, lotion, cream, gel, milk, serum, syrup, foam, soap, cake, shampoo, toothpaste, microcapsules, microparticles or vesicular dispersion of ionic and/or nonionic type.

30. (original) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, formulated as capsules, granules or tablets.

31. (original) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, further comprising at least one hydrophilic or lipophilic gelling agent, hydrophilic or lipophilic additive or adjuvant, preservative, antioxidant, solvent, perfume, filler, screening agent, odor absorber, colorant, or combination thereof.

32-33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The composition as defined by Claim 13, wherein the healthy stratum corneum is mammalian stratum corneum.

35. (previously presented) The composition as defined by Claim 34, wherein the mammalian stratum corneum is human stratum corneum.

36. (new) The composition as defined by Claim 13, wherein the cathepsin L type cysteine protease has an isoelectric point ranging from 6 to 9.

37. (new) The composition as defined by Claim 13, wherein the cathepsin L type cysteine protease exhibits activity at a pH ranging from 2 to 9.

38. (new) The composition as defined by Claim 13, wherein the cathepsin L type cysteine protease exhibits activity at a pH ranging from 3.5 to 6.5.

39. (new) The composition as defined by Claim 13, wherein the cathepsin L type cysteine protease exhibits activity at a pH ranging from 4 to 6.25.

40. (new) The composition as defined by Claim 13, wherein the cathepsin L type cysteine protease exhibits optimal activity at a pH ranging from 5 to 5.5.

41. (new) The composition as defined by Claim 13, wherein the cathepsin L type cysteine protease possesses a molecular weight of about 28 kilodaltons.